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MANUSCRIPTS AND RECORDS

FROM THE

BURTON HISTORICAL COLLECTION

VOLUME I

JULY, 1917

NUMBER 4

PETER LEWNEY'S ADVENTURES

From the London Chronicle or Universal Evening Post, No. 109,
Sept. 8-Sept. 10, 1757.

Detroit in 1757

Philadelphia, July 28. Since our last came to Town one Peter Lewney,* who, for about a Year past has been among the French and Indians at Fort Detroit, and informs us as follows, viz. That he was an Ensign of a Company of Rangers in the back Parts of Virginia, consisting of 70 Men, commanded by Capt. John Smith: That last Summer the Frontier Inhabitants being greatly distressed by the incursions of the Enemy, their whole Company went out in different Parties to their Assistance, except the Captain, himself, and nine private Men, who were in a Block-house, and had with them six Women and five Children.†

*This name is spelled "Looney" and "Luney" in the Virginia records. Peter was the son of Robert Looney, who lived on the James River. There were at least two other sons, David and Daniel. Peter died not long before Oct. 11, 1759, leaving a wife, Margaret, and a son, Peter Jr., and possibly other children. His wife later married James McKain (other records give the name "Cain" and "McCain"). *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia, Augusta County 1745-1800*, by Lyman Chalkley.

†An account of this disaster is found in *Chalkley's Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia, Vol. 2, page 511*, taken from papers in the *Wisconsin Historical Society*. Capt. John Smith and Peter Looney were taken prisoners by the Indians at Fort Vanse (Vance). Captain Smith was returned and Peter Looney escaped as told in the narrative. Several others were taken at the same time: William Bratton, who was returned; Joseph Smith, William Pepper, Mrs. Vanscher (Vance) and two daughters, a negro, two young Indians and a young man-servant, Ican Medley and two daughters, James Bell, Christopher Hicks, ——— Cole, ——— Graham, Benjamin Davis; Lieut. John Smith, who was killed; John Tracy, also killed; John English, killed; Mrs. Mary English; William, Thomas and Samuel Robinson, wounded, and Robert Pepper, wounded. The *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 2, page 401*, also gives this account.

That on the 25th of June, 1756, they were attacked by a Body of Indians and some French, and defended themselves the best Part of a Day; in which Time he says, they killed 32 Indians, and three Frenchmen, lost two of their own People, and another Man and himself were wounded; but were forced to surrender at last, the House they were in being set on Fire.

That they were then carried off, and after travelling some Time, the Indians belonging to four different Tribes divided the Prisoners, and parted; that before they came to the lower Shawanese Town (where he supposes there were about 300 Indians) the Shawanese made a Sacrifice of one Cole, whom they roasted alive, and tormented for a whole Night before he expired; and this they did in Sight of the French, who seemed unconcerned at their horrid Barbarity, and did not endeavour to restrain them, notwithstanding the moving Intreaties and bitter Complaints of the poor Man; that they also killed and scalped another Man on the Road, he being old and not able to travel.

That he (Lewney) was the only one that was carried to Detroit, where there are about 300 French Families settled, and in what is called the Town, they have about 100 Houses; that they have Plenty of Fish; the Land rich, on which they raise Wheat and Pease, and have very good Crops; and the Indians, of two or three different Nations, very numerous.

That while he was at Detroit, an Indian King adopted him for his Brother, on which Account he was very well used, and was often with them at their Councils with the French, being dressed and painted as the Indians were, and not known by the French but as an Indian, living in every Respect as they did; and that one Time in particular, at a Conference, he heard the French Commander order the Indians to go first to Fort Duquesne, then to Fort Cumberland, and afterwards to destroy all the English Inhabitants; that about the Beginning of April last a great Body of Indians set off for Duquesne, in Parties, each Party having some Frenchmen with them.

That about the Middle of June, he left Detroit in Company with a small Party of Indians, who were going to Niagara with some Furs, in order to purchase Indian Goods; that from Detroit to Niagara it is about 280 Miles, and that on the Falls of the latter the French have a small Fort, in which they keep 30 Men; and at Niagara there is a Fort of 24 Guns, Six, Nine, and Twelve-pounders, and in it about 300 Men.

That while he was at Niagara, he met with one William Philips, of New York, who was taken at Oswego, and they agreed to make their Escape together; that the Night before they left it, 280 French arrived there from Cadaraqui, destined, it was said, for Fort Duquesne, who encamped that Night, and were to set out again the next Day, but he and Philips went off before them; that they travelled about 200 Miles (the Land bad, and mostly

drowned) when they came to Oswego, without seeing an Indian; which Place, and Fort Ontario, they found entirely destroyed; that they then came to the Mohawk River, where they were kindly received by the Indians, who gave them Victuals, of which they were in great Want; and that they got to Albany the 12th inst. from whence he proceeded to this City, and is now gone to Virginia, where his Parents live. He was born in this Town, and is about 23 Years of Age. Capt. Smith, he said, was given to the French, and sent to Canada in the Spring.

GIDDINGS AND LUNT FAMILY RECORD

From Copy in Burton Historical Collection.

Micajah Lunt* of Newburyport and Sarah Giddings of Ipswich were married at Ipswich (now Essex), on the†

RECORD

Copied from the family Bible of Grandfather Giddings, said record being in his own hand writing, and the Bible in possession of George C. Furber of Germantown, Tennessee.

I, Daniel Giddings,‡ was born at Ipswich, State of Massachusetts, on the 9th of May 1734, U. S.

1757, Feb. 27th, I married Sarah Lord, third daughter of Thomas Lord of Ipswich, Massachusetts.

1758, Jan. 18th—Our first child was born. We named her Sarah.

1760, Jan. 1st—Our second daughter was born. We named her Mary.

*Micajah (also called Michael) Lunt, son of Abner Lunt and Miriam Coffin, was a private under Capt. Jonathan Evans in Col. Nath. Wade's regiment. He first enlisted on July 6, 1778, which according to records made him 14 years old. His name is found in a descriptive list of men who enlisted in 1780. He was 5 ft. in height and of dark complexion. At that time he claimed to be 19 years old. (*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution*.) He was captured three times during the war. After the war he became a successful shipmaster and prominent merchant and died as stated in the above records. *Newbury Anniversary*, page 134.

†Sarah Giddings and Micajah Lunt were married June 11, 1793. Their intentions were also recorded. *Vital Records of Ipswich, Mass., and Newbury, Mass.*

‡Daniel Giddings was a son of Daniel Giddings and Mary Butler. Daniel Sr. died Oct. 25, 1771, leaving a widow and eight children: Susannah, wife of Samuel Sayward; Eunice, wife of Jeremiah Choate, grandfather of the Hon. Rufus Choate; Mary, wife of William Story; Daniel Jr., who married Sarah Lord; Hannah, wife of John Lord; Sarah, wife of Francis Rush; Lydia, wife of Joseph Foster; Ruth, wife of Capt. Thomas Dodge. Daniel Giddings, Jr., died Aug. 18, 1816, aged 82 years. His wife, Sarah, died July 1, 1797, aged 58 years. They were both buried in Claremont, N. H. *Giddings Genealogy: Felt's History of Ipswich, Mass.*, page 181.

- 1761, Aug. 13th — Our third daughter was born. We named her Susannah.
1763, April 14 — Our fourth daughter was born. We named her Lydia.
1765, Aug. 13th — Our fifth daughter and second Sarah was born.
1767, March 28 — Our sixth daughter & second Susannah was born.
1768, July 3rd — Our first son was born. We named him Daniel.
1769, Nov. 14th — Our daughter Judith was born.
1771, Aug. 14th — Our daughter Miriam was born.
1775 — — — Our ninth daughter and second Miriam was born.
1777, May 18th — Our second son was born. Called him William.
1780, July 23rd — Our daughter Hannah was born.
1782, July 4th — Our daughter Polly was born.
1784, May 18th — Our third son was born. We called him Joseph.
-

DEATHS IN THE ABOVE FAMILY

- Mrs. Hannah Furber died February 28th 1822, aged 41 years.
Mrs. Mary Tyler died in Claremont, N. H., November 1822, aged 40 years.
Daniel Giddings died in September, 1835, aged 67 years.
Joseph Giddings died in Providence, R. I., July 31st 1813, aged 29 years.
Mrs. Sarah Lunt died in Newbury, Jan. 5th 1827, aged 61 years and five months.
Lydia Moody died in N. Port, October 19th 1845, aged 82 years, 6 months and 5 days.
Susan Giddings died in N. Port, November 1st, 1847, aged 80 years, 7 months and 4 days.
-

BIRTHS

Micajah Lunt born November 17th, 1764, in Newburyport.
Sarah Giddings born August 13th, 1765, at Ipswich—Chebacco parish.

William Lunt was born in Newburyport, October 3rd 1793.

Micajah Lunt was born in Newbury, April 22nd 1796.

William Lunt, 2nd, was born in Newburyport, January 1st 1798.

Sarah L. Lunt was born in Newburyport, October 6th 1800.

Mary C. Lunt was born in Newburyport, November 9th 1802.

George Lunt was born in Newbury Port March 7th 1805.

Hannah Giddings Lunt was born in Newburyport, 25th March 1807.

Susan Maria Lunt was born in Newburyport, June 5th 1811.

Jacob William, child of Micajah Lunt, son by a second marriage, was born January 20th, 1829.

MARRIAGES

Sarah L. Lunt was married to Henry Titcomb Jun., April 13th 1826.

Micajah Lunt Jun., was married to Hannah Mulliken, May 29th 1826.

Micajah Lunt Jr. was married to Mary I. Coffin, Dec. 13th 1831.

Susan Maria Lunt married David P. Page of Newbury, Dec. 16th 1832, Sunday morning.

George Lunt was married to Caroline B. Chase, July 10th 1833.

Hannah G. Lunt was married to Abijah Howard Jr., October 6th 1840.

Mary C. Lunt was married to Rev. E. T. Fitch, January 6th 1848, Thursday morning.

DEATHS

Micajah Lunt died Sunday afternoon, August 30th, 1840, aged 76 yrs.

Sarah Lunt died January 5th, 1827, aged 61 years and 5 months.

William Lunt died August 14th 1794, aged 10 months and 14 days.

William Lunt, 2nd., died November 6th, 1800, aged 2 yrs. 10 mo. 6 dys.

Sarah L. Titcomb, wife of Henry Titcomb, died Jan. 14th 1878, aged 77 years and 3 months.

Mrs. Hannah Gyles Lunt, wife of Micajah Lunt, Jr., died Oct. 8, 1829, aged 30 years.

Caroline B. Lunt, wife of George Lunt, died

Susan M. Page, wife of David P. Page, died Feb. 5th, 1878, aged 66 years and 8 months.

BIRTHS

Henry Titcomb Jr. born July 13th 1799, in Newburyport.
S. L. L., born October 6th, 1800.

Henry Titcomb born March 20th 1827— $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 A. M., in Newburyport.

Sarah Giddings Titcomb born August 22nd. 1828, in N. Port, in the Bank house, Harris St.

Hannah Gyles Titcomb born Nov. 6th 1830, at 3 o'clock P. M., in the house in Orange Street, Newburyport.

Valeria Kendall Titcomb born May 3rd 1833, Friday morning.

Frederic Henry Titcomb, born September 4th 1837, Monday morning, in Orange Street.

DEATHS

Henry Titcomb Jr. died Sunday morning August 20th 1837, aged 38 yrs.

Sarah, his wife, died Jan. 14th 1878, aged 77 yrs. and 3 months.

Henry, eldest son of Henry Titcomb Jr., died Thursday morning, July 31st, 1845, aged 18 years.

Sarah Giddings, eldest daughter of Henry Titcomb Jr., died Monday morning, May 31st 1847, aged 18 Years and nine months.

Hannah G. White, wife of John White Jr., died ———

Frederic Henry Titcomb died Friday evening, December 16th 1849.

DANIEL BOONE'S PETITION

Photostat—Files of the Senate, Washington, D. C.

161

11 Cong. }
 2 Sess. } L.

Report of Committee & Petition }
 of Daniel Boone,* an Inhabitant }
 of the Territory of Louisiana.

1810

January 2—Read.

Jany. 3rd

Committed

Series 8

Mr. Meigs†

S. Files.

“ Anderson‡

“ Pope§

*Daniel Boone (1735-1820), the great hunter and adventurer, incited by the accounts brought back by John Finley, formed a company of six kindred spirits and on May 1, 1769, set out for the almost unknown wilds of Kentucky. His experiences and knowledge made it possible for him to do great service on the frontier in Lord Dunmore's war. He also constructed a strong fort on the bank of the Kentucky River which he named Boonesborough. On one of his expeditions he was captured by the Indians and adopted into the family of a Shawanese chief. After living with them for some time he made his escape and returned to his family. When Kentucky was surveyed upon being admitted into the Union, Boone's title was disputed and the case decided against him. He then sought a new home at Point Pleasant, but in 1795 removed to Missouri, where he received a Spanish grant. This grant was pronounced invalid when the Spanish possessions passed into the hands of Napoleon and were sold to the United States. An appeal to Congress resulted in a grant of 850 acres. At the age of 75 he was hale and strong. The charm of a hunter's life clung to him to the last and at the age of 82 years he went on a hunting excursion. He made his own coffin and kept it under his bed. *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography*.

†Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr., (1764-1824) was elected on the Democratic ticket to fill a vacancy in the U. S. Senate and served from Dec. 12, 1808, to May 1, 1810, when he resigned to become governor of Ohio.

‡Joseph Anderson (1757-1837), senator from Tennessee, served in the Revolution and was breveted major. He was appointed judge of the territory south of the Ohio River in 1791. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Tennessee; United States Senator from 1797-1798, filling a vacancy caused by the expulsion of William Blount; re-elected to fill vacancy caused by the resignation of Andrew Jackson; re-elected and served from 1798-1809 and on to 1815. He was the first controller of the Treasury, March 4, 1815-July 1, 1836.

§John Pope, senator and representative from Kentucky, was born in Virginia in 1770. He practiced law in Kentucky and served several years as a member of the State House of Representatives. He served in the United States Senate from March 4, 1807, to March 3, 1813. He was governor of Arkansas from 1829-1835 and again represented Kentucky in Congress 1837-1843. *Biographical Congressional Dictionary, 1774-1911*.

Jany. 12th
Reported

The petition of Daniel Boone
presented by Mr. Meigs.

Jany. 18, 1810.

A Bill reported and postponed
to the s. Monday Dec. next.

To the Senate and Representatives of the Citizens of the United
States in Congress, assembled :

The petition of Daniel Boone, at present an Inhabitant of the
Territory of Louisiana respectfully sheweth :

That your petitioner having spent a long life in exploring the
wilds of North America ; and having by his own personal exer-
tion, been greatly instrumental in opening the road to civilization
in the immense Territories now attached to the United States,
and in some instances matured into independent states.

An ardent thirst for discovery united with a desire to benefit a
rising family has impelled him to encounter the numerous hard-
ships, privations, difficulties and dangers to which he has unavoid-
ably been exposed. How far his desire for discovery has been
extended and what consequences have resulted from his labors
are at this time unnecessary to detail.

But while your petitioner has thus opened the way to thousands,
to countries possessed of every natural advantage ; and altho he
may have gratified to excess his thirst for discovery, he has to
lament, that he has not derived those personal advantages which
his exertions would seem to have merited. He has secured but a
scanty portion of that immeasurable territory, over which his
discoveries have extended, and his family have reason to regret,
that their interest had not been more the great object of his dis-
coveries.

Your petitioner has nothing to demand from the justice of his
Country, but he respectfully suggests, that it might be deemed
an act of grateful benevolence if his Country, amidst their boun-
ties would so far gratify his last wish, as to grant him some
reasonable portion of Land within the Territory of Louisiana.

He is the more induced to this request, as the favorite pittance
of soil, to which he conceived he had acquired a title, under the
Spanish Government, has been wrested from him, by a construc-
tion of the existing Laws, not in his contemplation and beyond
his foresight. Your petitioner is not disposed to murmur or com-

plain; but conscious of the value and extent of his services; he solicits some evidence of their liberality.

He approaches the august assemblage of his Fellow Citizens, with a confidence inspired by that Spirit which has led him so often to the deep recesses of the wilds of America; and he flatters himself that he with his family, will be induced to acknowledge that the United States know how to appreciate and encourage the efforts of her Citizens, in enterprizes of magnitude, from which proportionate public good may be derived.

DANIEL BOONE.

IN SENATE
OF
THE UNITED STATES

January 12th, 1810.

Mr. Meigs, from the committee to whom was referred the petition of Daniel Boon, together with the bill for his relief made the following report:

THAT at a period antecedent to the revolutionary war, Daniel Boon, the petitioner, possessing an ardent desire for the exploration of the (then) western wilderness of the United States, after traversing a length of mountainous and uninhabited country, discovered, and with a few bold and enterprising fellows, established, with a perilous hardihood, the first settlement of civilized population in the (now) state of Kentucky. That in maintaining the possession of that country until the peace of 1783, he experienced all the vicissitudes of a war with enemies the most daring, insidious and cruel, and which were aided by Canadians from the British provinces of upper Canada; and that during that long contest, he lost several children by the hands of the savages.

That it appears to the committee, that although the petitioner was not officially employed by the government of the United States, yet that he was actually engaged against their enemies, through the whole of the war of the revolution.

That in the exploring, settling and defending that country, he eminently contributed to the early march of the American western population, and which has redounded to the benefit of the United States. That your petitioner is old, infirm, and, though dependent on agriculture, by adverse and unpropitious circumstances, possesses not one acre of that immeasurable territory which he so well defended, after having been the pioneer of its

settlement. The petitioner disclaiming all idea of a demand upon the justice of his country, yet requests as a grateful benevolence, that Congress would grant him some reasonable portion of land in the territory of Louisiana. The committee upon the whole circumstances of the merit and situation of the petitioner, beg leave to report the bill without amendment.

THE ADVENTURES OF HENRY BIRD

From the *Analectic Magazine*, 1815, Vol. VI, Pages 295-301.

Henry Bird removed in 1797 from Frederick county, Virginia, where he was born in 1767, to the head waters of Sandusky, in the state of Ohio. He was accompanied by two of his neighbours, John Peters and Thomas Philips, in partnership with whom he had purchased a little tract of six hundred and sixty acres of land. At that time, there were no inhabitants within eight or nine miles of the spot they had chosen. The first thing they did was to build a log hut, with the assistance of their neighbors, who each brought a bushel of wheat to support the new-comers until they could raise their own grain. Such is the custom in all these little frontier settlements, where necessity has revived many good old patriarchal customs, and established a neighbourly connexion among the first settlers that is not seen in other communities.

Here Bird lived till the year 1811, during which time he became the father of five children, and saw the country change from a wilderness inhabited by panthers, bears, buffaloes, wolves, and wild turkeys, to cultivated farms, belonging to sturdy, independent yeomanry. The first year he came, though no hunter, he killed two panthers, and had an irruption made into his pig-sty, which adjoined one end of his hut, by a bear, who carried off one of his best pigs. For a long time he was disturbed at night by the howling of wolves close under his windows; but as the country became cleared and more thickly settled, they gradually receded into the woods, and seldom came near the house. The Indians were all about them, and a friendly intercourse had long subsisted between Bird, and a warrior of the Shawanese tribe, called the Big Captain, who often came and slept at his house.

But after the battle of Tippecanoe, they all disappeared; and as this was a signal that they meditated revenge, the inhabitants gathered together, two or three families in a hut, that they might be the better able to resist any sudden attack. Bird's friends,

Peters and Philips, came to his house with their families, because it was larger than theirs, having, as he says, "two fire-places with a partition between." The whole number thus collected amounted to nineteen, three men, three women, and thirteen children, some of them quite grown up.

On the 17th of October, 1811, "just after daylight was gone," to use his own expression, while Bird was lying down on the bed, his wife roasting a piece of buffalo, and Peters and Philips, with three of the daughters were sitting round the fire, eight guns were discharged through the window, which killed the whole party at the fire, and wounded Bird in the hip with two balls. He sprung out of bed, but dropped on the floor, and at the same instant the Indians, eighteen in number, burst open the door with a horrible yell. Bird endeavoured to climb up so as to reach one of four loaded muskets, which hung against the wall, but was followed by an Indian who struck him in the shoulder with his tomahawk. This blow brought him down, and the Indian cut and hacked away at his left side, which was uppermost, until he thought him quite dead. Then, having killed the whole nineteen, and being fearful that the firing might have roused the neighbourhood, they seized the four rifles, the Big Captain gave the retreating war whoop, and they all retired to their canoes, which had been left at the head of a creek communicating with the waters of the Great Sandusky.

Here they lay until morning, when, finding all quiet, they returned to the house and fell to stripping the dead bodies, amounting to eighteen. When they had done this, they piled them up in the middle of the room. The Indians attempted to strip off Bird's hunting shirt of tow linen, and were going to scalp him and throw him on the pile with the rest, when the Big Captain came. Bird spoke to him by name, begged to be tomahawked, and told the captain "he never used *him* so when he came to see him." The Big Captain then, without making any reply, began to examine his wounds, which when he had done, he exclaimed with wonder, "that the great spirit would not let him die. I will carry you home and cure you," said he.

He ordered two Indians to put Bird in a blanket and carry him down to his canoe, whither he followed him; and while the rest of the party were bringing down the plunder, dressed his wounds; for the Indians always carry with them materials for dressing wounds when they go to war. By this time they had loaded their canoes, and when the last party left the house, they set it on fire in order to burn the dead bodies, among which were Bird's wife and five children. This done, they went down the Sandusky into lake Erie, which they crossed and coasted down to the lower end, till they came to a creek the Indians called Yo-hoh; up which they proceeded about fourteen miles, to the old Shawanese town. This was a distance of near four hundred miles; during all this

time the Big Captain dressed Bird's wounds with considerable skill, but handled him so roughly as to put him to very great pain. Bird thinks he remembers every thing that passed in this long transportation, and when I asked him about the state of his mind, said "he was so taken up with his own pains that he had no time to think of his murdered family."

The Big Captain carried him to his own wigwam, where he lay two and twenty moons before he could walk with crutches. When he grew able, his business was to light the Big Captain's pipe, and fetch water for him. In this last occupation he sometimes met, at the spring, American white women, whose families mostly had been murdered, and who were now slaves to the Shawanese. One of these he knew; she had lived in Ohio, and her story was that of hundreds of others, whose husbands and children had been surprised at their firesides and murdered. Bird promised, should he ever live to escape, that he would give information of the fate of these unhappy women, whose number in this single village was fifty-eight, and who doubtless, have long been considered dead.

The Indians are the most jealous and suspicious of their prisoners of any people in the world. One of them had observed this conversation, without overhearing it, and gave notice that there was a plot among the white slaves to run away. Bird and the poor woman were then brought before the Big Captain, and threatened with death if they did not confess their plots. He persisted in refusing to make any disclosures, and the Big Captain ordered his two thumb nails to be twisted off. Finding that Bird still refused to make any disclosures, he at last became convinced of his innocence, and, by way of satisfaction, directed him to twist off the thumb nails of the accuser. This, however, he declined.

From the time that Bird left off his crutches he had meditated making his escape, although he was in general treated pretty well by the Big Captain, except when the chief was in liquor. At such times even his wife did not dare to come near him, for his passions were terrible, and he was accustomed to indulge them with impunity, because it is a law of the Indians, that a drunken person is not accountable for his actions. It is the liquor, and not the man that is to blame. In order to throw the Big Captain off his guard, Bird affected on all occasions to prefer being the slave of such a great warrior to living among the white men, and working hard all day like a beast. "I lied," said Bird; "I don't deny it, but I thought it excusable in this case." The Big Captain, however, was very suspicious, and would never give him a chance to escape.

One evening in the latter part of February, when Bird had been near forty moons a prisoner, the Big Captain and his Lady both got very drunk, and as the rivers were now frozen, he resolved to take advantage of this circumstance to attempt gaining Detroit, or some other settlement of the whites. He had from time to time,

by little and little, furnished his knapsack with a good quantity of jerked venison to serve him in his long journey. On the night of one of the last days of February, 1815, he left the Big Captain's wigwam, and took a direction as nearly south as possible, through the woods, in order to strike the shores of lake Erie. There was an Indian path to the lake, but he did not dare to take that, for fear of being overtaken by the Indians, should they discover his absence. It was a cold moonlight night, yet still he found much difficulty in keeping a direct course, and it was broad daylight before he struck the lake. From thence he continued up the lake, until about twelve o'clock, and had got, as they told him afterwards, about thirty miles from the town, when he was seized by a party of five Indians, as he was sitting on a log eating a piece of jerked venison. The Big Captain had discovered his flight at daylight, and set off with three hundred men, divided into parties of five each, to scour the woods in every direction.

They tied his hands behind him, and drove him in this way about a mile, to a rising ground, where they fired their guns, and lighted a fire, by setting fire to an old dry walnut tree, as signals for the other parties to come in. Here they passed the night, during which time about one half of the parties had come in. The morning after, they drove Bird into the town, and a council was called to decide on what was to be done with him. It was concluded upon, that as he was determined not to stay with them, he should be "burnt three days." The famous Shawanese Prophet, brother to Tecumseh, was at this council; his opinions are of great weight with the Shawanese, as he is considered to speak the will of the Great Spirit. Bird had seen him often. He is about fifty, very ill looking, and no warrior. He was continually exhorting the Indians to fight the Americans, and keep them from taking away their lands. The influence of the prophet may be estimated by the fact that at one time he had prevailed upon some of the tribes to abstain from spiritous liquors; but they afterward returned to their old habits.

The Big Captain came to tell Bird what they were going to do with him. It was what he expected, and had made up his mind to it. About an hour after sunrise he was taken a little outside the village to the war-dance ground, where he supposes three or four hundred Indians had collected. They tied him down on his back, with his feet fastened to a stake, and the Big Captain seized a fire-brand, which he held first against his hand, then against his arm, taunting him at the same time, by asking "if he intended to run away again soon?" This was done by others in turn, for thirteen different times, at intervals of half an hour, and sometimes of an hour, so that he might be as susceptible as possible to the pain. The intervals were filled up with dancings, tauntings, and expressions of contempt for white men. The louder he groaned, the louder they shouted, exclaiming that "Indians

never groaned, but the white man was no better than a woman." This ceremony continued till within about two hours of sunset, at which time the fingers of his right hand were almost consumed, and his arm burnt quite to the bone. I saw his hand and arm myself, or I could never have been brought to believe that human nature could have endured such long suffering.

At this time there came up one Randall M'Donald,* a Scotch trader from Quebec. He had been all through that country, buying furs, and was now on his way home, with a caravan of sixteen mules and four horses, loaded with skins. He was well known to the Indians, and offered to purchase Bird for a gallon of rum, which, he told the Big Captain, would afford them a much better frolick than burning a poor white man. The bargain was struck—the Big Captain took the rum—Randall M'Donald, with his own hands, cut Bird loose, put him on one of his horses, and set out immediately. They travelled all night, for fear the Indians would repent their bargain after drinking the liquor, and reclaim the poor half-burnt victim. In nine days, Bird thinks, they reached Kingston, where Randall bought him some clothes, and got a surgeon to attend him. They staid four days at Kingston, and then went down to Quebec. All the time during this journey he was attended kindly by Randall, who took him home to his house in Quebec, employed a surgeon, and he soon got well enough to be able to travel on foot. The good Scotchman then told him he might take his choice, either to remain with him or go home. Bird chose the latter; and Randall gave him money to carry him to the frontier; and sent him off with his good wishes. In these miserable times of national antipathies and savage warfare, it is gratifying to trace, in the conduct of Randall M'Donald, that steady, untiring benevolence, which adorns and exalts our nature. That he should have saved the prisoner at the stake is nothing.† But that he should carry him with him, and support him, through such a long, tedious journey, dress his wounds in the wilderness, afterward take him to his home, and finally give him money to support him till he got to his own country, is what, I fear, few could have done under the like circumstances. Let us, then, do honour to this benevolent Scotchman, who saved one of our citizens from the stake, and sent him safe to his home.

*The name Randall McDonald (MacDonel) appears among the *United Empire Loyalists' Centennial of the Settlement of Upper Canada, Toronto, 1885, page 219*. There is also a Randal McDonald who married Esther Proctor at Montreal, July, 1785. Either or both of these men may have been the father of the man mentioned in the text. *Montreal Marriages in Canadian Archives for 1885, page LXXXVI; Bureau of Archives for Ontario, 1904, page 964*.

†This was not the first prisoner McDonald had rescued from the Indians. The *Niles Register, Vol. 12, page 175*, states that, on May 10, 1817, a schooner, "Lydia Johnson," from Quebec bound for New York, ran ashore on Long Island. The boat had among its passengers Benjamin Powell, John Brown, Elizabeth Smith and Sarah Roberts, who had been captives among the Indians. Powell's wife and five children were murdered. Powell was badly mangled. The Indians had sold him and the three others to Randal McDonald for five gallons of rum. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Roberts lost their husbands and several children by Indian murders.

The money given him by Randall M'Donald lasted Bird till he came to Vermont; from whence to Washington, he subsisted on the benevolence of his countrymen. In general, he says, he had little to complain of. His story almost always gained him food and lodging, and, with very few exceptions, he was seldom turned away from any man's door. Misery and poverty so seldom knock at the doors of an American farmer, that his heart is not yet steeled to apathy by becoming familiar with objects of distress. From the borders of Vermont, he travelled by land to Albany, where the Patroon* got him a passage, free, to Egg-Harbour, and he says he thought his lady would never have done sending provisions on board the vessel for him. From Egg-Harbour, he came across New Jersey to Delaware Bay, which he crossed to Jones's creek in the state of Delaware, whence he went to Haddaway's ferry, crossed the Chesapeake to Annapolis, and arrived at Washington the 6th day of July, 1815. His object in coming there, was to fulfill his promise to the poor women of the old Shawanese Town. It is with pleasure I add, that he was admitted to an audience of the president, and that measures have been taken, by the proper authority, to recover these unfortunate captives, should they be still alive.

I saw him, and inquired particularly into his story, which he repeated as I have given it, without variation or embellishment. There was a striking manliness in his deportment, and he told his tale with such an air of simple truth, that I could swear to every word of it. I asked if he had any objection to its being made public? He said none, provided I did not make a fine story about him. He was going among some distant relations in Frederick county, who he said would take care of him as long as he lived, and he did not want them to think he wished to be the hero of a story. He had more than forty wounds—his shoulder was partly cut off, his thigh gashed with seams, his side scarred with a tomahawk, his fingers almost burnt off, and one of his arms in some places nearly bare to the bone. Yet, he neither repined or complained that his lot was harder than that of other men, but exhibited, more than any being I ever saw, an example of that philosophy which is the offspring, not of reasoning, but of suffering, and of that inflexible hardihood which a long succession of labours, dangers, and hardships ever inspires. P.

*Stephen Van Rensselaer, Esq., of Albany, commonly known by this title in the State of New York.

DOCUMENTS ON EARLY INDIANA HISTORY

(Continued from page 112)

William H. Harrison to Henry Dearborn

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 12th April 1807.

Sir,

I wrote to you about eighteen months ago that some rumours unfavourable to the reputation of Mr. Jovett* had reached me. I have however never found a person who would make any specific charge against him Mr. Munro† excepted who asserted that he had applied a part of the Public provisions to his own use.

Mr. Jovett having heard that some unfavorable impressions had been made on my mind against him has now voluntarily come forward and declared his willingness to submit to any investigation that I might think proper to institute.

His explanation of the circumstances which gave rise to Mr. Munro's accusation is entirely satisfactory and I have no hesitation in saying as far as I am acquainted with his conduct as a public officer he has acted with zeal and integrity. It is true that a great clamor has been raised against him at Detroit by persons in the British interest but this is easily accounted for as the establishment of an Indian Agency at that place had a powerful effect in checking their illicit practices in the Indian Country.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest respect and esteem,
Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

Honorable Henry Dearborn Esq.,
Secretary of War.

*This is Charles Jouett. See note on page 108, this volume.

†Robert Monroe was in Detroit as early as 1803. He was agent of the public stores and attorney to settle the estate of John Francis Hamtramck. He wrote an account of the fire of 1805 when Detroit was entirely destroyed. (See page 91, this volume.) He left Detroit in 1806 and visited his brother in Jamaica. He died in Washington, D. C., and his will was proved and allowed May 14, 1819. *Governor and Judges Journal—Proceedings of the Land Board of Detroit, 1915, pages 201-202.*

Michael Jones to William H. Harrison

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Kaskaskia May 4th 1807.

Dear Sir,

On the 29th ultimo, Gabriel, one of the Kaskaskia Indians (Brotherinlaw to Ducoigne) was found dead on the Massac road about seven miles from this place. He was scalped, his skull cut in pieces with three strokes of the Tomihawk, two bullet holes thro' his body, one entered the breast, the other the left side. His left arm broke by the stroke of a ball—his Rifle, accoutrements, blanket, clothes, saddle and bridle were carried off. The saddle was found by a party of the Kaskaskia Indians, who, the day after the murder was committed, pursued the trail of a party of eight Indians in a direction towards the Keckapoo Towns. Two old blankets, an old blue Cappeau and a Jole of Cason were left by the perpetrators with the dead body. Also an Indian war sign was found on the body. Ducoigne believes it to have been done by the Kickapoos or Potowatomies. A few days before this event happened, the horse of Mr. Doza* on which he was riding was shot thro' the neck, a little after dark, on the road leading to Prairie Durocher about two miles from this Village; by the aid of a flash of lightning, Doza discovered two men whom he took to be Indians. A horse belonging to a Mr. Patten was also shot thro the neck (and killed) by an Indian, in the woods near the farm of Mr. Patten, at no great distance from the place where the murder was perpetrated. The bell on the horse, which Mr. Patten's negro found the preceding morning, was carried off: The negro saw an Indian in pursuit of the horse a short time before the horse was shot.

Ducoigne as well as all his people are in a great dread at present. His situation is certainly a very unpleasant and unsafe one. Some strange Indians are said to be sculking about this place. The Kaskaskians have all come to the Village and dare not venture out unless they are permitted to fire on the Indians whom they may meet in the woods. I have advised them to act only on the defensive for the present: to which he replied in a sarcastic way "Yes, When I meet an Indian I must stand until he shoots me down, and then make a defence, and thus lose my life and the lives of my people. I have had ample protection promised

*This may have been Joseph Doza, who was on the census roll of Kaskaskia for 1787, or Alexi Doza, a member of the militia of Kaskaskia in 1790 and 1795. See *Fergus Historical Series*, No. 31, page 75; *Illinois Historical Collections*, Vol. V., *Kaskaskia Records*, page 417.

to me by the United States, and yet the Officers do not interest themselves in my behalf, no escort can be obtained to bring in my dead people, and they even doubt their authority to rescue me from an attack; under these circumstances I ought at least to be placed on a footing with my enemies."

I stated to you in my former letter that some of our officers entertain eronious opinions as to the protection they are authorized to give to the Kaskaskia Indians in certain cases, and suggested the propriety of giving instructions to the officers on the subject.

I am, D. Sir, your
friend and Humble Servant,
MICH. JONES.*

His Excellency Wm. H. Harrison.

William H. Harrison to Col. Menard

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 18th May 1807.

Sir,

The United States having guaranteed to the Kaskaskia Tribe of Indians a protection against every Indian Tribe or Foreign power equal to what is enjoyed by their own Citizens. And as it appears that there is a design formed by some of the neighbouring Tribes to cut them off, it becomes necessary that measures should be immediately taken to prevent a Catastrophe so horrible in itself, and which would justly subject our Government to the reproach of having violated its most solemn engagements.

You are therefore hereby directed to take immediate measures to have the Militia of the Town of Kaskaskia and its Vicinity in readiness to repel any attack that may be made upon them and in order that your protection should be as effectual as possible I have directed the Chief to put himself and his Tribe under your Orders and not to suffer them to leave the Town, without your permission. This permission should not be given, (unless you should think proper to employ them as Scouts) until it is ascertained that they can go out in safety. I have requested Michael Jones Esquire to supply them with provisions and ammunition,

*Michael Jones was an attorney of Kaskaskia and register of the Land Board in 1804. In 1808 he was defeated as candidate for delegate to Congress. He was a bitter enemy of John Rice Jones and his son Rice Jones (who were no relation to him) and during a quarrel over the election Rice Jones was shot. Michael Jones was among those tried for the murder but was finally acquitted. *Fergus Historical Series*, No. 31, pages 35-36, 144-145; No. 34, page 280. *Chicago Historical Society's Collection*, Vol. IV., pages 172-173, 275-276, 280-281.

and with this Gentleman to whom I have hitherto entrusted the management of the Indian business in the Illinois Country you will please to consult on the measures to be adopted to carry the orders contained in this letter into effect. It will be necessary that every party of Indians who may come into your vicinity should be watched and that they should be informed of the directions you have received to protect the Kaskaskians and this I hope will be sufficient to prevent their attempting to do them any farther mischief.

I have sent a message to the Chiefs of the Illinois Kickapoos through the Chief of that nation who resides on the Vermilion and a duplicate of the same to Mr. Jones who will convey it to them by some intelligent person who understands their language. You will please to communicate to me as soon as possible any information you may possess relative to the late murder of the Kaskaskian Indian which will lead to a discovery of the Perpetrators and whether it proceeded from an accidental recounter or a determination upon the part of the Tribe to which they belonged to make war upon the Kaskaskians.

I am very respectfully your
humble servant

Signed

W. H. H.

Col Menard* or the
commanding officer of the
Militia of Randolph County.†

William Henry Harrison, Governor of the Indiana Territory,
& Superintendent of Indian Affairs, to his children the
Chiefs and head men of the Kickapoos Tribe

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

My Children:

Why does it happen that I am so often obliged to address you in the language of Complaint?

Will your young men never listen to the advice of their father? My Children,—You cannot be ignorant that the 17 fires of America‡ Have taken the Kaskaskias Tribe under their wings.

*See note, page 99, this volume.

†Randolph County was formed in 1795. At that time there were only two counties in the present State of Illinois, St. Clair County being the other. The line between these counties was an east-and-west line and Randolph County lay south.

‡The seventeen fires of America refers to the seventeen states then in the Union.

You knew this and yet you suffered your young men to shed their blood and scatter it in your father's face.

My Children—the great Chief and the Council of the 17 fires have 'said to the Kaskaskian Tribe—"My Children—your voice has been heard by your father, he will take you in his bosom and let no man hurt you."

My Children—your father does not lie. He will not suffer you to kill the Kaskaskians when they do you no injury.

My Children,

Let me know by the return of the bearer who it was that covered your father's road with blood.

My Children—I want to see some of you here to speak to you on the subject of the Kaskaskians.

My Children—The blood that was shed on your father's road must be covered up.

From your Father,

(Signed) WM. H. HARRISON.

19th May 1807.

William H. Harrison to Henry Dearborn

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 23rd May 1807.

Sir,

I have the Honour to enclose herewith a letter from Michael Jones Esquire the Register of the Land Office at Kaskaskias upon the subject of a Murder lately committed upon one of the Kaskaskia Indians in the vicinity of Kaskaskias by a party of Indians supposed to belong to the Kickapoo or Potawatomie Tribes. From the circumstances attending the murder and others which have come to my knowledge, I am induced to believe that a design has been formed by one or both of the last mentioned tribes to destroy the remnant of the Kaskasias Tribe. As the United States have guaranteed to the Kaskaskias "a protection as effectual as that which is enjoyed by their own Citizens" I had no hesitation in giving the Orders of which the enclosed is a copy to the Commanding Officer of the Militia at Kaskaskias. I hope however that there will be no necessity of having recourse to Arms to protect them. The message which I have sent to the Kickapoos (of which I enclose a Copy) will I believe produce a suspension of Hostilities and satisfaction for the injury that has been already done. The killing of the Horse mentioned in Mr. Jones' letter and the firing at the frenchman do not in my opinion indicate any hostile design against the Whites. The Indians frequently

steal horses that they are unable to catch, by shooting them through the upper part of the neck, which only stuns them a little—but if the shot is a little too low, the horse is killed. Doza the frenchman who was shot at might easily have been mistaken in the night for a Kaskaskias Indian.

I am utterly at a loss to know what to do with the Banditts of Creeks which have so long infested this Country. They are the most daring mischievous fellows in existance. The Settlers on the Ohio have suffered so much from them, that they say they can no longer bear with them. At the earnest solicitation of the People in that Quarter, I have authorized the Capt. of Militia with the concurrence of a Justice of the Peace to disarm them; if they do not attend to the solemn admonition which I have lately sent them. They are in the daily habit of committing every species of aggression excepting murder, and should they begin with this I know no other way of managing them than hunting them like wild beasts. For I am persuaded from their Characters that if any individual amongst them was to be brought to punishment, the families of many of our scattered Settlers would fall a sacrifice to the revenge of the others.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect, Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

The Honorable
The Secretary of War.

Indian Murder

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes May 23rd 1807.

Wm. H. Harrison Relative to the murder of a Kaskaskias Indian supposed to be committed by some Kickapoos—Enclosing a letter from Michael Jones Esq.—his order to the commanding Officer of Militia and Speech to the Kickapoos.

The Kaskaskia Indians ought to receive the same protection in all respects as the white Citizens and, the same measures should be pursued towards any persons white or red, who injure them, as would be proper where injuries are received by white Citizens, and it will be proper to convince the Kaskaskia Chiefs of the determination of the Government to protect them as effectually as we would our white Citizens.

William H. Harrison to Henry Dearborn

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes, 11th July 1807.

Sir,

About five weeks ago I was informed that a Kaskaskias Indian had been killed and scalped a few miles from the Town of Kaskaskias and that the murder was supposed to have been perpetrated by the Kickapoos. I received also at the same time from the Chief Ducoigne a demand that the perpetrator should be sought after and brought to punishment. A few days after a party of Kickapoos who were in the neighbourhood of St. Louis waited on Gen'l Wm. Clark,* acknowledged that the murder had been committed by some of their Tribe, and requested Gen'l Clark's intercession to make up the matter with the Kaskaskias declaring at the same time that the Tribe disavowed any participation in the murder or any wish to do injury to the Kaskaskias. Not having then heard of this conciliatory disposition on the part of the Kickapoos and believing from some circumstances which attended the murder that they intended further mischief, I immediately despatched a strong speech to the Chiefs demanding retribution for the past and satisfactory assurances of a disposition to maintain peace in future. Their answer was sufficiently conciliatory excepting that they made no mention of any intention to give up the murderer. They employed however the Shawanos and Delawares who resided on the west side of the Mississippi to go to the Kaskaskias with the property which had been taken from the murdered Indian and endeavour to settle the affair with Ducoign in the Indian way by presents and wampum. Ducoign would not agree to their proposals but referred them to me. He has however in the speeches he has sent me insisted in the strongest terms that the murderer should be delivered up and punished and declares that nothing less than his being hanged will satisfy him. The Kickapoos will however certainly not deliver up the murderers be the consequences what they may. It is with the utmost reluctance that these surrenders are made when white people are killed, but I am persuaded that no consideration on Earth could induce them to do it in the case of a murdered Indian; it is so contrary to their Ideas of propriety and to the universal practice of all the Tribes on the Continent. As Ducoign however insists upon it and the right to a protection as effectual as that which is enjoyed by our own Citizens is guaranteed to him by their Treaty, the attempt to get the murderer must be

*See note, page 75, this volume.

made. But as his persisting in having him punished by our Laws will draw down upon him the Jealousy and hatred of all the other Indians I shall endeavour to persuade him to submit to the mediation of the neighbouring Tribes and abide their award, which being made under my superintendence and influence will be as favorable to him and his Tribe as any that has been made in similar circumstances.

Mr. Wells informs me that he has made you several communications on the subject of the Shawanoe Prophet who attracts so much of the attention of several of the Tribes. I really fear that this said Prophet is an Engine set to work by the British for some bad purpose. A respectable Trader lately from Detroit informs me that he was told that McKee the British Indian Agent was lately seen to pass up the Miami of the Lake to Greenville where the Prophet resides and where there has been a considerable collection of Indians for many weeks. The Prophet contrives to have every Indian put to death who attempts to open the eyes of their infatuated country men and I am told that his vengeance has been particularly directed against those whom he suspects of an attachment to the United States. Two Delaware Chiefs* of this description were lately sent for from their hunting ground between this place and the Ohio one of them under guard. I have serious apprehensions for their safety. I have received information which cannot be doubted that war belts have been passing through all the Tribes from the Gulf of Florida to the Lakés.† The Shawanoes are the bearers of these belts and they have never been our friends. The Traders who are attached to our Government are unanimously alarmed and agreed in the opinion that a general combination of the Indians for a war against the United States is the object of all those messages and councils. My own opinion is that this is certainly the object but I hope and believe that it will not be accomplished. The several branches of the Miami Tribe are immovable in our interest. The Influential Chiefs of the Delawares are equally so, but if the machinations of the Prophet should be successful in getting these removed I cannot answer for the fidelity of the rest of the Tribe. They have certainly great cause of irritation against us in consequence of our being unable to bring to justice any one of those miscreants who have murdered their people. This is made a handle of by the malcontents amongst the other Tribes and has given a very unfavorable opinion of our impartiality and Justice. The apprehension and punishment of Red would at this time be attended with the most beneficial consequences. *He* if taken can be convicted—and in my opinion the

*The two victims were probably Tethtepoxski and "Billy" Patterson. (See note, pages 65, 67, this volume.) Another noted Indian chief who was a victim of the Prophet's vengeance was the Wyandotte chief "Shateyaronrah," or Leather-lips, whose name appears among the signatures to Wayne's famous treaty at Greenville. *Thatcher's Indian Biographies, Vol. II., page 198.*

†It was at this time that Tecumseh was laying the foundation of his confederacy of all the Indian tribes with which he hoped to overthrow the whites.

energy of the Government ought to be excited to apprehend him, both Justice and policy strongly demand it. I have offered \$300 for him several months ago. The sum ought in my opinion to be doubled or even tripled. It is true that the offence committed was against the Territorial Laws, but as the United States have by Treaty Guaranteed the safety of the Indians and the Territory is unable to bring him to justice, they could not in my opinion employ \$600 or \$1000 to a better object.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect, Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

Honorable Henry Dearborn Esq.

Secretary of War.

P. S. There is a Mr. Lorimier* who resides on the Mississippi who has great influence over the Delawares and Shawanoes. I have thought of sending a confidential person to him to endeavour to ascertain from him the object of the frequent councils held by these Tribes and if he does not know to engage him to visit their settlements on the Head of White River and at Greenville for that purpose. I have the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your favor of the 16th May. The \$1000 therein mentioned shall be employed agreeably to your directions.

W. H. H.

To be sent to the President.

Vincennes July 11, 1807

Wm. H. Harrison—relative to the murder of a Kaskaskia by a Kickapoo The Shawonoe Prophet, etc.

Rec'd Aug. 1 1807.

William H. Harrison to Henry Dearborn

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 13th Aug. 1807.

Sir,

It is with great pleasure I inform you that the result of several Councils held by the Indians in this quarter has been an unequivocal and unanimous determination to preserve the Relations of

*Louis Lorimier was a native of Canada, who settled on a Spanish grant at Cape Girardeau in 1793. He had considerable influence with the Shawnee and Delaware Indians. He was one of the commissioners to lay out the town of Cape Girardeau when he died in 1812. He left a large estate to his children, one of whom was Louis, who was educated at West Point Military Academy, graduating in 1806. He served on the western frontier from 1806-1809, where he resigned and retired to Cape Girardeau to farm. He died Oct. 9, 1831. *Cullum's Biographical Register of Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy; Wisconsin Historical Society, Vol. XIX., page 265n.*

peace and amity with the U. S. from which they derive so much advantage. I pledge myself for the peaceable disposition of the Delawares, Miamis, Weas, El River, Lake Piankeshaws, Kickapoos and the greater part of the Shawanos. Overtures have been made to them both by the British and Spaniards which they have rejected with indignation. The speech from one of the Agents of the latter said to be in writing I expect to get possession of. The determination of the Council held at the Kickapoos Town at which the above mentioned Tribes were represented has been forwarded by them to the Indians of the Lakes.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect and Consideration,
Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

The Honorable
The Secretary of War.

William H. Harrison to Henry Dearborn.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 29th August 1807.

Sirs,

Since my last I have made every exertion to ascertain the real disposition of the neighbouring Tribes and the cause of the stir and commotion which have existed amongst them for some time past. The avowed object of the latter is to cement a more perfect union and friendship amongst themselves as they have often been advised by the United States but to which I am persuaded they were stimulated in the present instance by British influence. I am confident however that the ultimate object of the British (which no doubt is that of forming a general confederacy against us) has not yet been communicated either to the Miamis, Weas, Delawares or even to the Kickapoos. The Shawonoes are certainly entirely devoted to the British as are a part of the Potawatamies, the Chippeways and Ottowas. From the enclosed deposition of Ducharme sent to me by Mr. Jovett, it would appear that the latter tribes have actually determined on commencing hostilities. I have adopted measures which I think cannot fail to put me in possession of the intentions of the British in this quarter; at least as far as they are known to the Indians. As soon as my Emisary returns, you shall be informed of every thing he may be able to discover. I am in the meantime doing all in my power to organize and discipline the Militia of the Territory. As it is almost impossible to find persons who are acquainted even with the rudiments of tactics, I am obliged to perform alternately the duties

of Commander in chief, Adjutant and even drill corporal. The habits of my early life are not however so far obliterated as to make this duty irksome or unpleasant, were it not for the great deficiency of arms and accoutrements. We have Cavalry without swords, light Infantry without bayonets or cartridge boxes, and battalions armed with a mixture of Rifles, fowling pieces, broken muskets and sticks. To a man accustomed to the uniformity of a regular and disciplined army, these things are really shocking. I must beg of you, Sir, to submit to the President the propriety of having our deficiency made up from the public arsenals. A small deposit of arms might be made with good effect at this place, at Kaskaskia or Cahokia, and Jeffersonville. The Militia of Dearborn County, the seat of Justice of which is not more than 18 miles from the Arsenal at Newport, might, in case of emergency, be supplied from thence.

I have not been able to collect the returns from the distant Counties of the volunteers who have offered on the terms of the late act of Congress. I am in hopes to be able to forward them to you in the course of a fortnight. Two troops of Cavalry; one of light infantry; one or two of select riflemen; and two or three others to be armed with rifles or muskets as the President may chose, may I think be calculated on.

I am extremely anxious to know the President's determination on the subject of a supply of arms, etc. If he should direct them to be supplied, an order to Major Martin to send them on immediately to the places above designated would enable us to get them much sooner than if the order were in the first instance sent to me.

I have the Honour to be with the greatest respect, Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

Honorable Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War.

Vincennes Aug. 29—'07.

Gov. Harrison—Relative to the disposition of the Indians—the state of the Militia. Enclosing Francois Ducharme deposition, etc.

Rec. Sept. 30, 1807.

If the President consents, 600 muskets, 600 cartridge boxes, 2000 flints, 6 barrels of powder should be ordered to Vincennes and Kaskaskia.

May it not be advisable to procure 2000 common rifles for the use of the Western Militia.

Francois Ducharme's Statement

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

This Day, Francois Ducharme personally appeared before me, John Kinzie a Justice of the Peace in the Presence of Charles Jovette Esquire, Indian Agent at the Post of Chicago and Maketh Oath that he verily believes that the Indians of St. Josephs are hostile to the United States and meditate an attack on some part of the American Settlements or garrisons, but at what time they will strike he cannot tell.

Signed his
Francois X Ducharme
mark

Sworn before me this Six day of July 1807, at Chicago, Indiana Territory.

Signed J. Kinzie, Jus. P. Sinclair County.

I do hereby Certify that I have been Eleven years acquainted with Francois Ducharme and have every reason to believe his affidavit is entitled to Credit as a man of truth; he speaks the Potowatomie Tongue remarkably well and from a residence of many years with the Indians, and having among them an Indian wife and several children. I do not hesitate to state he is as likely to ascertain their views as any man within my knowledge.

Signed J. KINZIE.

William H. Harrison to Henry Dearborn

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes Sept. 5th 1807.

Sir,

The Letter herewith enclosed from Mr. Wells I received four days ago, and I at first thought it of sufficient importance to authorize my sending it by a special express, but upon conversing with Mr. Connor the Bearer of it, it appeared to me that there was no danger of hostilities being immediately commenced, altho' I do believe that the Chippeways, Ottawas and part of the Pottawatomies only wait for the signal from the British Indian Agents to commence the attack.

I have sent Connor with a Talk to the Shawnese requiring the immediate removal of the impostor* from our Territory and the dispersion of the Warriors he has collected around him. The British could not have adopted a better plan to effect their purpose of alienating from our Government, the affections of the Indians than employing this vile Instrument. It manifests at once their inveterate rancour against us and their perfect acquaintance with the Indian character. I think however that the Miamies, Weas, Delawares and Kickapoos have not as yet been seduced, and that we may rely on their fidelity. I believe their inclinations are on our side, but if that was not even the case, I am persuaded that they are too well acquainted with their interests to dare to lift the Tomahawk.

Wells has been endeavouring for some time past to get the Impostor removed from Greenville, by means of the Delawares and Shawnese, but without effect; he has also I believe threatened him with the vengeance of the United States, if he continues to excite disturbances amongst the Indians. To protect himself from this, is I imagine the reason of his retaining about him the armed pilgrims that have come from the Lakes to visit him. Connor says that 12 or 15 days ago they amounted to upwards of Three hundred men, and that a larger body were hourly expected. It would require a considerable force to remove those Fellows, and it is my opinion it should not be attempted, but with one that would leave nothing to hazard. Filled with enthusiasm as those wretches certainly are, they would no doubt defend the object of their Veneration with all their force, and an unsuccessful attempt to drive them off would confirm his influence and perhaps draw over to his party those tribes who now regard him with contempt. Believing that it was all important in the present Crisis to obtain correct information from the Indian Country and to secure the friendship of those who are best calculated to give it. I have appointed Mr. Connor Interpreter for the Delawares with the same pay as that Mr. Barron received and have directed him to employ himself altogether in developing the designs of the British and such of the Indians as they have gained over to their interests. I have entire reliance on his fidelity, and am confident, that he can do us much services. I have placed myself under no obligation to continue him longer than his services will be wanted. I trust that this step will meet the President's approbation.

*The Impostor here referred to is the famous Shawnee Prophet, Tenkwatawa, or Elkwatawa, brother of Tecumseh. About 1805 he assumed the character of a prophet and began to preach among the Indians against the white man and his "firewater." His influence spread over all the tribes in the United States and Canada. Together with his brother Tecumseh, who was the organizer, they planned the overthrow of the Americans, but their hopes were shattered by their defeat at the Battle of Tippecanoe. The Prophet did not fight in the War of 1812 but removed to Canada. In 1827 he removed with his tribe beyond the Mississippi, where he died in 1834. See *Wis. Hist. Soc.*, Vol. XIX, page 322; *Thatcher's Indian Biographies*, Vol. II.

Since I had the honour to write to you on Saturday last, two other Companies of Volunteers consisting of young active Woodsmen have offered their services to the Country, alone will furnish a good Battalion from the other Counties there will be at least a sufficiency to form a Regiment or rather a Legionary Corps composed of Dragoons, Riflemen and Infantry.

I have the Honour to be with perfect respect,

Your most Obedient humble Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

Honorable Henry Dearborn Esq.

William Wells to William H. Harrison

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Fort Wayne the 20 August 1807.

Dear Sir,

Since I wrote you on the 14 instant the Indians have continued to flock to Greenville which increases the fears of our frontiers. These Indians are from the Lakes near Mackanah, they appear to be deaf to everything I say to them, though I can see nothing among them that carries the appearance of danger.

Two confidential Indians that I sent to that quarter have returned to day and say that all the Indians in that quarter believe in what the prophet tells them which is that the great spirit will in a few years destroy every white man in America, that every Indian has made himself a *war club*, that the militia and military at Mackanah are constantly under arms and that they could hear no friendship expressed among the Indians for the United States. I am also this moment informed by a letter from Detroit that the inhabitants at that place are fortifying themselves.

It appears by information I this moment received that upwards of 200 Delawares have gone to meet the other Indians at the Kickapoo town in the prairie where it is expected 13 different nations will be represented.

The Delawares have received this invitation from the Miamies of Massasinwa to attend this council since Rusherville* returned from Detroit all the Miamies have refused to attend this Council 3 excepted Rusherville pecan† and the owl it is believed will be at this place tomorrow to receive their goods, and to cover their designs in assembling the Indians at the Kickapoo towns. None of the potawatomes from this quarter have gone to this council. This business as I before told you was kept a secret from the

*Richardville. See note, page 66, this volume.

†Peccan. See note, page 65, this volume.

Little turtle* the messenger sent from Massasinwa to the Delawares in delivering his message. Said he was directed to tell them (the Delawares) that this business must be kept a secret from the turtle the white loon† 5 medals and—Charley‡ as they wear big knives and ought not to know any thing about the affairs of the Indians. I believe the Pottawatomies, Miamies and Delawares are our friends. Lapasen is to be suspected—the prophet keeps up a communication with the British at Malden. We are all alarmed at this place, myself excepted as I consider no danger as yet at our doors.

Something must be done; it cannot be done too soon for the Indians are certainly pursuing an improper combination, one that is not friendly towards us, otherwise the Leaders in it would not keep it so much in the dark from every person that is friendly disposed towards the United States. I have sent Mr. Connor with this letter to you in order that you may receive all the information he possesses respecting the Delawares. I have promised him that you would reward him liberally for his trouble. Treat him well. He may be useful to us.

I shall do everything for the best and hope to receive such instructions from you as may be calculated to meet the present times as soon as possible.

It is my opinion that the British are at the bottom of all this business and depend on it that if we have war with them that many of the Indian tribes will take an active part against us, and nothing would have a better effect on the minds of the Indians than an immediate show of resentment on our part at their endeavouring to form unfriendly combinations towards us.

The prophet and his insolent band should be the first object of our resentment. He should be punished for his insolence.

I am Dear Sir, with respect, your

Most Obedient Servant,

W. WELLS.

Governor Harrison.

P. S. I despair of getting the Indians to move the prophet from Greenville, and I doubt whether matters can be kept in their present state until I have time to hear from you. The Miamies, Eel River Indians and Potawatomes will be at this place tomorrow. I shall treat them well and endeavour to get everything I can out of them and from time to time write you every thing that comes to my knowledge worthy your attention.

*See note, page 60, this volume.

†White Loon was a Wabash chief who signed the Treaty of Greenville. He was at the Grand Council at Fort Wayne, Sept. 4, 1811, and made a speech. His town was one of the three villages at Mississinewa which were burned by Col. Campbell. *Fergus Historical Series*, No. 26, page 73.

‡Charley was a Miami chief of the El River tribe and lived in one of the Mississinewa villages which Col. Campbell was ordered to destroy. Charley survived the war and was living as late as Oct. 6, 1818. He had a son called "Little Charley," who received a grant of land after his father's death, in 1826. *Fergus Historical Series*, No. 26, pages 69-70.

John Rice Jones to Messrs. Lasselle

Burton Hist. Colls., Vol. 933, Page 150.

Gentlemen/ Vincennes 13th Sept. 1807

Your brother will inform you that Mr. Barron has paid him \$400 on account of your debt—\$500 more I expect to get in a short time from a Judgment Barron has obtained in the Illinois agt a man of that place—This sum, I believe, is secure, and will be paid in a few months—I was offered Deer skins for it last week; but not thinking myself authorised to accept of them, especially at present procarius value of that article, I declined the offer, wishing rather to wait sometime for a better payment—Should you however choose to accept Skins, inform me so by your Brother's Return.

A Court of Chancery was for the first time held last month, and an order for an answer was made in your suit against Peltier; if it does not come in at the next term your Bill will stand confessed, and a Decree rendered in your favor. Should the answer come in I will forward you a Dedimus to take Depositions.

I am at a loss what to advise you to, relating to Barron; to Push him to Extremities may and I believe will, induce him to go to prison and come out by the Insolvent Act, in which Case your Chance of getting anything more from him, will be small indeed. To sell the little property he has would not answer your purpose, as the proceeds of Sale will be but twice to your demand. If he will pay you the annual Installment of \$1000 promised, the Debt will in a few years be paid and I rather think you had best accede to these terms. Your directions will however be obeyed, in whatever manner you think proper. The Judgment against Barron is a lien on all his real Estate and operates as a mortgage.

I am Gentlemen

Yours most obedtly

To Messrs Jacques and Fras. Lasselle
Merchants

JNO RICE JONES.

Detroit

John Rice Jones to Solomon Sibley

Burton Hist. Colls., Vol. 933, Page 198.

Dr Sir/ Vincennes 10 Dec. 1807

Yours of 16 october last was delivered by Mr. H. Lasselle, at a time when I was too ill to read much less to answer it. I have ever since been confined with the Influenza and a bilious

fever, and am at this moment scarcely able to write. Mr. Robinson's Departure tomorrow forces me to make the effort, tho with great pain & Trouble.

Inclosed you have a certified copy of the Injunction Bill and the Proceedings in the Suit of Lasselles agt Peltier; as also a Commission for taking Depositions in the Suit. You know the merits of the cause better than I do, and the proofs necessary to be adduced. You will before the Executive give Peltier reasonable written notice of the time and place of taking the Depositions, of which you will send an affidavit with the Depositions to this place. I shall not write Messrs. Lasselle being too weak & feeble to do it.

I will communicate that part of your letter regardg the Estate of Col Hamtramck to the Governor, as soon as he arrives from the Ohio where he now is, which will be in a few days.

On application to the Clerk of the General Court, he informs me, after a Search, that no appeal has been lodged in that Court in any Suit between Chapoton & Godfroy.

Interlocutory Judgment has been obtained in the Suit Visger agt the Robertson's but cannot obtain final Judgment for want of proofs.

I sent you a Dedimus long since, which has never been returned, inclosed you have another.

A Judgment of non pros has been long since obtained agt Patterson for Riley.

(I have seen Mr. Edgar lately—want of Cash is the only reason you are not paid—he has given me a letter of Attorney to sell 800 Acres of land he owns near this, and which I presume will shortly sell. As soon as it does, I will immediately remit your payment)

As soon as Tom Jones arrives from Pittsburgh, I will give him the Information contained in your your letter respecting his Suit with Abbott.

Excuse my breaking off abruptly which attribute only to Illness.
S. Sibley Esqr.

Yours &c

Detroit

JNO. RICE JONES

(To be continued.)

NOTE.

Through the efforts of Mr. Frank J. Metcalf, of Washington, D. C., it has been ascertained that the marriage records on pages 83-89 of this volume were the personal records kept by the Rev. Abisha Samson.

Rev. Abisha Samson, pastor Baptist Church, was born at Woodstock, Vt., Sept. 28, 1783, and first joined the Congregational Church. In 1805 he united with the First Baptist Church of Providence, R. I., and in June, 1806, was ordained. He at once entered upon his work. He was pastor of the church at Harvard, Mass., from 1812-1832; Southborough, Mass., from 1832-1840; Worcester, Mass., for four years, and then went to Washington, D. C., where he resided with his son, the Rev. G. W. Samson, president of Columbian College. He died there June 24, 1861. *Cathcart's Baptist Encyclopedia*, Philad., 1881, Vol. II., page 1024.

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